

Remarks:

1. Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, and 17 to enclose reference numbers corresponding to elements recited in detailed description of the drawings in brackets, thus differentiating them from other numbers or characters which may appear in the claims.
2. Applicants have amended claim 17 to correct the antecedent basis problem with “magnet means”, replacing it with “magnetic means”.
3. Claims 1-24 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lutz (6,522,130).
 - a. Regarding claim 1, Lutz teaches and claims placing the magnetic field sensors in the flux lines emanating from and returning to the same surface of the magnet, i.e. regarding figures 1 or 2 of Lutz, the flux lines shown always emanate from and return to the same magnetic surface. In contradistinction, the instant invention places the magnetic field sensor in a position to be acted upon by returning flux lines (emanating from one magnet surface and returning to the opposite pole of a second magnetic surface). This can be seen in Figures 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 of the instant application. Applicants contend that this patentably distinguishes the instant invention over the prior art and that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

- b. Regarding claims 2-8, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, for at least the reasons cited above in 2(a), applicants contend these claims are in condition for allowance.
- c. Regarding claim 9, the same arguments concerning placing the magnetic sensor in a radial return flux line apply. Therefore, applicants contend that claim 9 is now in condition for allowance.
- d. Regarding claims 10-16, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 9, for at least the reasons cited above in 2(c), applicants contend these claims are in condition for allowance.
- e. Regarding claim 17, the same arguments concerning placing the magnetic sensor in a radial return flux line apply. Therefore, applicants contend that claim 17 is now in condition for allowance.
- f. Regarding claims 18-24, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 17, for at least the reasons cited above in 2(e), applicants contend these claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the instant application.

Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance and look forward to a timely Notice of Allowance.

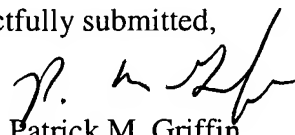
Appl. No. 10/754,026
Amdt. Dated *08-MAR-2006*
Reply to Office Action of January 19, 2006

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit

Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Date: *08-MAR-2006*